



MEDIA RELEASE



Welland Brownfield Site Approved for Residential Development

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Welland – The City of Welland is celebrating the development of its first brownfield redevelopment proposal. The proposal put forth by Armstrong Hunter & Associates on behalf of its client, Terrasan, includes 215 mixed-use residential units and approximately 30,000 square feet of commercial development with intended use being retail stores or restaurants, or similar uses as permitted by site specific commercial zoning consistent with the area.

“Terrasan Corporation, which specializes in the remediation of environmentally impaired sites, is extremely excited about the opportunity to work with the City of Welland and the community in creating a vibrant and sustainable urban development at the site of the former Welmet site,” stated Jeff Usher, Vice President of Land Development for Terrasan.

Welmet Industries, the former owner of the site, manufactured steel and bronze castings for the manufacturing sector and stainless steel valves for chemical industries under various company names from the 1930s until the mid 1980s, when the company announced it was phasing out its King Street operations in Welland due to significant financial losses. In February 1985, former owner R.J. Gillespie Enterprises Ltd. purchased the Welmet Industries property and, for safety reasons, demolished the buildings on the site.



“We are very pleased that Terrasan has decided to invest in the City of Welland,” stated Don Thorpe, General Manager of Planning and Development Services for the City. “This investment will remediate a vacant Brownfield site at the edge of our downtown and provide residential units along the scenic Welland Recreational Waterway, as well as new commercial floor space.”

The property, located at the west end of Albert Street north of Lincoln Street, is ideally located for residential development due to its proximity to the Welland Recreational Waterway and downtown Welland.

“This project brings a breath of fresh air into the community; in particular, to a part of the city that hasn’t experienced development in years,” said the City’s Manager of Economic Development, Dan Degazio. “The developer of the project should be applauded for producing such an ambitious project. A development like the one being proposed opens the canal to development most communities envy,” continued Degazio.

“In addition to achieving Brownfield redevelopment consistent with the Brownfield Community Improvement Plan approved by Council in May 2007, this project is another step in the revitalization of Welland’s downtown, which is one of the focus areas of the City’s new Strategic Plan,” said Mr. Thorpe.

The proposed development advances not only City of Welland initiatives, but many of the provincial and regional initiatives that promote the creation of strong, sustainable communities focusing on redevelopment of brownfield sites and promoting growth in the southern portion of the Region of Niagara. Most importantly, this investment in the City of Welland supports the designation of Welland as the only “Diamond” in the Province’s “Places to Grow” legislation, denoting it as the only Gateway Economic Centre in Ontario.

This development in particular will also reflect the City’s desire to create walkable communities by designing pedestrian links within the development to the Welland Canal Trail; and, being only a short walk North to the downtown core, this development will promote a healthier community.

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